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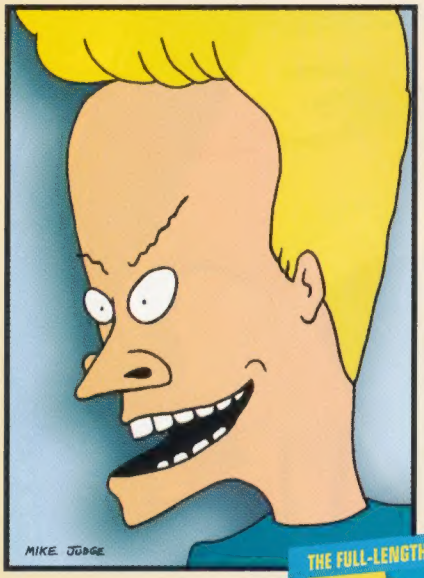

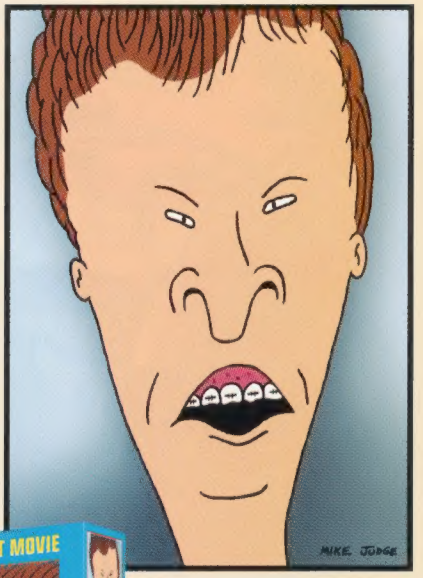

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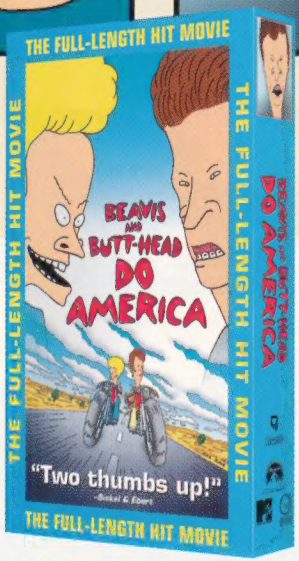
"BUTT-HEAD"



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TIME FOR YOUR DAUGHTER'S NAP, MR. LUTHOR. SHALL I PUT HER DOWN IN THE NURSERY?
THE PLAYPEN IS FINE, MISS ROCHE. WE'RE GOING TO READ A LITTLE FIRST.
YES, SIR. IF I MAY, SHE'S A BEAUTIFUL BABY. A SHAME HER MOTHER MAY NEVER KNOW.
BE ASSURED THAT I KEEP A VIGILANT EYE ON THE CONTESSA'S... STATE, MISS ROCHE.
THAT WILL BE ALL FOR THE DAY. PLEASE DRAW THE CURTAINS ON YOUR WAY OUT.
YES, MR. LUTHOR.
WELL, LITTLE LENA. THIS IS A MOMENT I'VE BEEN WAITING TO SHARE. I DO NOT HAVE MANY HAPPY MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD--
A CHIL
EASUR
OF
TORIES
--BUT THIS VOLUME PROVIDED ME WITH BOTH ESCAPE AND MORAL LESSON.
MY PARENTS DID NOT-- COULD NOT-- GIVE ME ANYTHING, BUT I HAVE A WORLD TO BESTOW ON YOU.
AH, HERE WE GO.
READY?
A CAUTIONARY TALE

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A CAUTIONARY TALE

• with apologies to Chaucer •

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letterer	BILL OAKLEY
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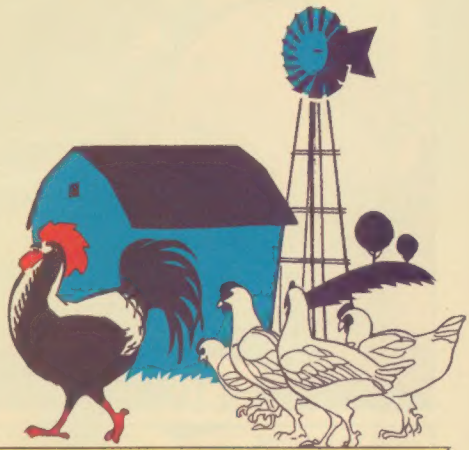
separations	DIGITAL CHAMELEON
assistant	MAUREEN McTIGUE
troubador	JOEY CAVALIERI

SUPERMAN created by JERRY SIEGEL and JOE SHUSTER

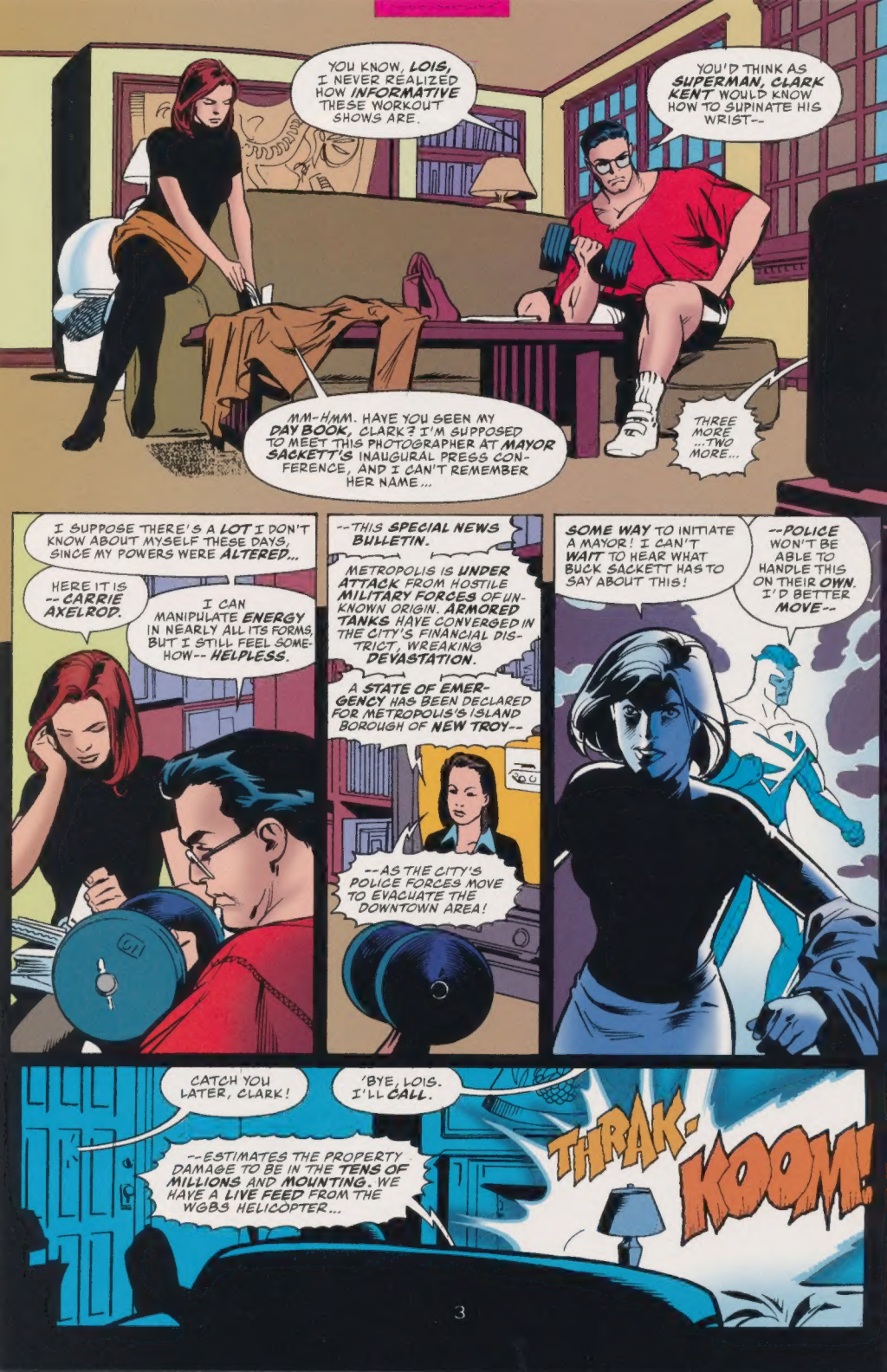
Once upon a time, not long ago, not far away, a rooster went by the proud name of CHANTICLEER.



He was a glorious creature, his plumage the color of red gold.

Chanticleer took great pride in his work, as man and animal depended on his voice to break the dawn.

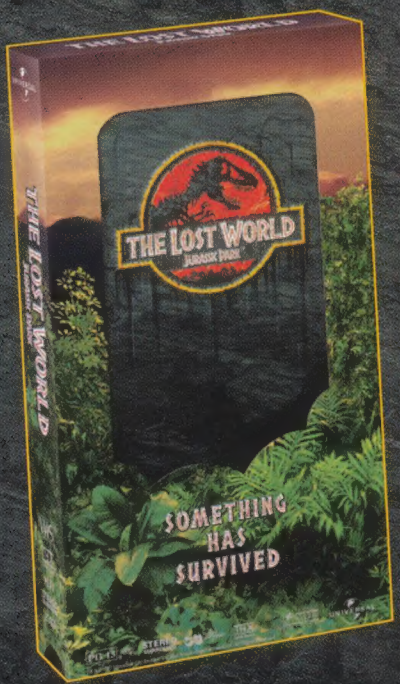
In fact he was respected by all but a blue fox, who, despite his beautiful coat, was unloved, and so, developed a hatred of Chanticleer.


YOU KNOW, LOIS, I NEVER REALIZED HOW INFORMATIVE THESE WORKOUT SHOWS ARE.
YOU'D THINK AS SUPERMAN, CLARK KENT WOULD KNOW HOW TO SUPINATE HIS WRIST--
MM-HMM. HAVE YOU SEEN MY DAY BOOK, CLARK? I'M SUPPOSED TO MEET THIS PHOTOGRAPHER AT MAYOR SACKETT'S INAUGURAL PRESS CONFERENCE, AND I CAN'T REMEMBER HER NAME...
THREE MORE ...TWO MORE...
I SUPPOSE THERE'S A LOT I DON'T KNOW ABOUT MYSELF THESE DAYS, SINCE MY POWERS WERE ALTERED...
HERE IT IS -- CARRIE AXELROD.
I CAN MANIPULATE ENERGY IN NEARLY ALL ITS FORMS, BUT I STILL FEEL SOMEHOW-- HELPLESS.
--THIS SPECIAL NEWS BULLETIN.
METROPOLIS IS UNDER ATTACK FROM HOSTILE MILITARY FORCES OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN. ARMORED TANKS HAVE CONVERGED IN THE CITY'S FINANCIAL DISTRICT, WREAKING DEVASTATION.
A STATE OF EMERGENCY HAS BEEN DECLARED FOR METROPOLIS'S ISLAND BOROUGH OF NEW TROY--
--AS THE CITY'S POLICE FORCES MOVE TO EVACUATE THE DOWNTOWN AREA!
SOME WAY TO INITIATE A MAYOR! I CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR WHAT BUCK SACKETT HAS TO SAY ABOUT THIS!
--POLICE WON'T BE ABLE TO HANDLE THIS ON THEIR OWN. I'D BETTER MOVE--
CATCH YOU LATER, CLARK!
'BYE, LOIS. I'LL CALL.
--ESTIMATES THE PROPERTY DAMAGE TO BE IN THE TENS OF MILLIONS AND MOUNTING. WE HAVE A LIVE FEED FROM THE WGBS HELICOPTER...
THRAK-KOOM!

IT'S A WAR ZONE HERE, JANE! THE TANKS HAVE DESTROYED FOUR CITY BLOCKS ALREADY, AND THE AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO STOP THEM!
THEY SEEM TO BE CONCENTRATING SOLELY ON THE BUILDINGS AND IGNORING US FOR THE MOMENT, BUT WE ARE KEEPING A CAUTIOUS DISTANCE.
KAPOOM!
POOM!
RRRUUMMBLLLE!

CAN YOU SURVIVE?

HAS MAN LEARNED TO LIVE WITH THE MOST POWERFUL CREATURES IMAGINABLE? DON'T MISS STEVEN SPIELBERG'S SPECTACULAR ADVENTURE!



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LUCKILY, KNOWN CASUALTIES ARE AT A MINIMUM, AS THIS AREA OF THE CITY VIRTUALLY SHUTS DOWN ON THE WEEKEND.
RRUMMBLLLLE!
KAPOOM!
KRENK!
PEDESTRIANS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ESCAPE DOWN SIDE STREETS, AS POLICE AND SPECIAL CRIMES UNITS ATTEMPT TO CORDON OFF THE AREA.
ROGER THAT, HQ. LEFT HERE, MAGGIE. THEY'RE HEADED FOR BESSOLO BOULEVARD.
OKAY, DAN. BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'LL DO WHEN WE GET THERE--
I'VE GOT ONE CHANCE, AND IT HAD BETTER WORK--
"--I JUST HOPE SUPERMAN'S HEARD ABOUT THIS MESS!"

--I DON'T WANT TO HURT WHOEVER'S INSIDE, SO I'LL AIM LOW, PHASE OUT AND DISABLE THEIR ELECTRONICS SYSTEMS.
KUPHOOM!
KUPHOOM!
SUPERMAN! ANY IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON?
NOT YET, INSPECTOR. BUT YOU'LL HAVE SOMEONE TO INTERROGATE IN ONE--
RRENNCH!
--EMPTY? WHAT'S GOING ON?
MAYBE YOU CAN ASK THEM.

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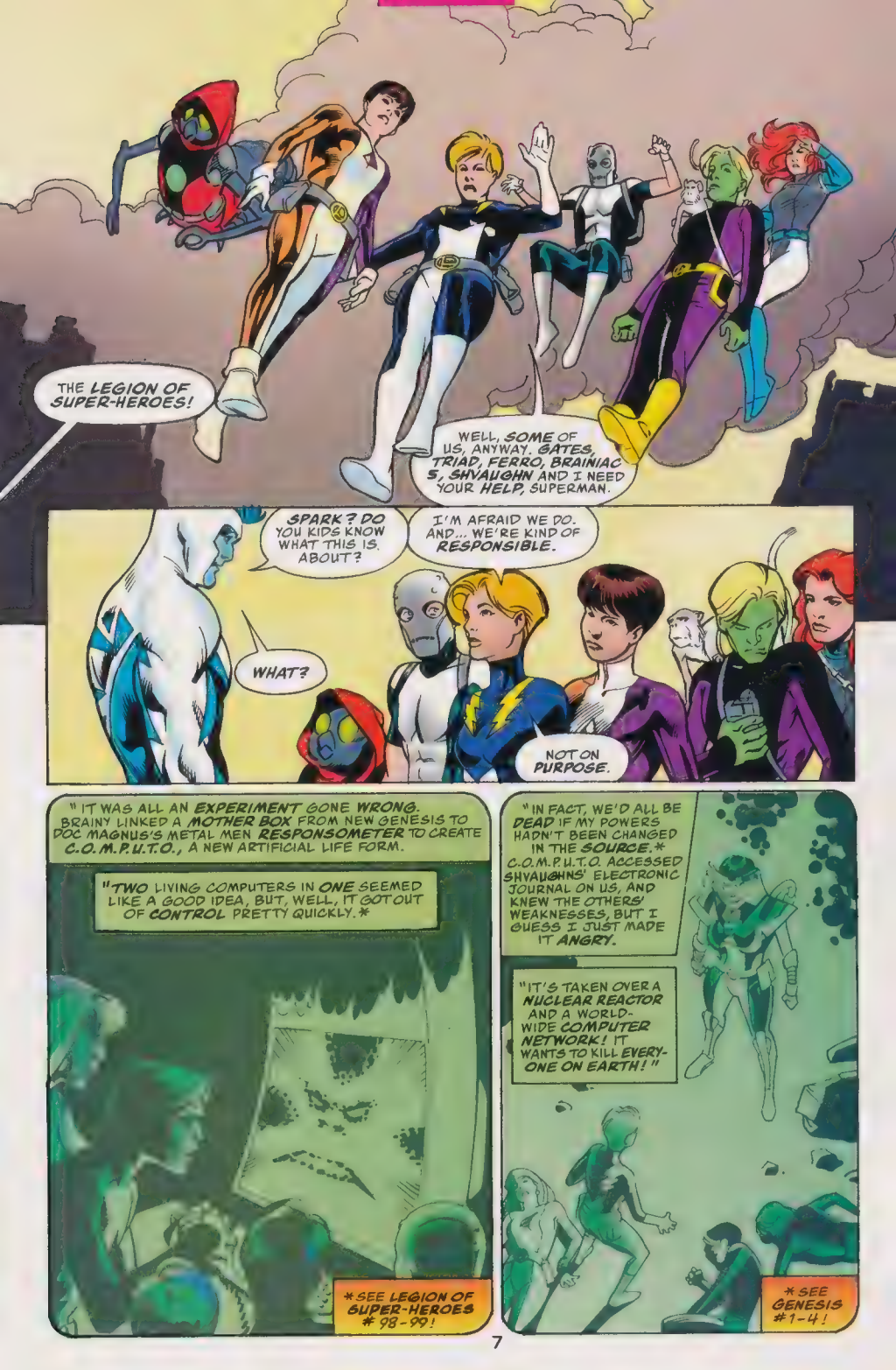
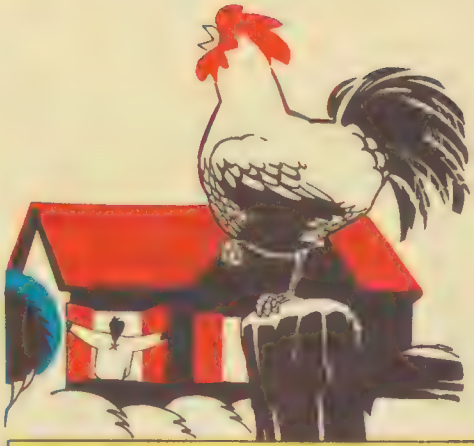

THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES!
WELL, SOME OF US, ANYWAY. GATES, TRIAD, FERRO, BRAINIAC 5, SHVAUGHN AND I NEED YOUR HELP, SUPERMAN.
SPARK? DO YOU KIDS KNOW WHAT THIS IS, ABOUT?
I'M AFRAID WE DO. AND... WE'RE KIND OF RESPONSIBLE.
WHAT?
NOT ON PURPOSE.
"IT WAS ALL AN EXPERIMENT GONE WRONG. BRAINY LINKED A MOTHER BOX FROM NEW GENESIS TO DOC MAGNUS'S METAL MEN RESPONSOMETER TO CREATE C.O.M.P.U.T.O., A NEW ARTIFICIAL LIFE FORM.
"TWO LIVING COMPUTERS IN ONE SEEMED LIKE A GOOD IDEA, BUT, WELL, IT GOT OUT OF CONTROL PRETTY QUICKLY.*
*SEE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES #98-99!
"IN FACT, WE'D ALL BE DEAD IF MY POWERS HADN'T BEEN CHANGED IN THE SOURCE.* C.O.M.P.U.T.O. ACCESSED SHVAUGHNS' ELECTRONIC JOURNAL ON US, AND KNEW THE OTHERS' WEAKNESSES, BUT I GUESS I JUST MADE IT ANGRY.
"IT'S TAKEN OVER A NUCLEAR REACTOR AND A WORLD-WIDE COMPUTER NETWORK! IT WANTS TO KILL EVERY-ONE ON EARTH!"
*SEE GENESIS #1-4!

WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO PREVENT SCENES LIKE THIS ALL ALONG THE EAST COAST FOR--
--FOR ONE HOUR, EIGHTEEN MINUTES, SEVEN SECONDS. AND WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? IS IT THE NUCLEAR THREAT?
NO, SIR, BUT THESE GOOD PEOPLE CAN GET HOME IF WE HELP THEM.
THAT'S RIGHT. THE LEGION HAS BECOME SUCH A FIXTURE AROUND HERE I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN THEY COME FROM THE FUTURE -- A THOUSAND YEARS FROM NOW.
:kksch: CAR EIGHTY, RESPOND PLEASE.
OF COURSE I'LL HELP. BUT WHERE DO WE START?
I THINK I GOT YER ANSWER, SUPERMAN. AUTO PLANT GONE HAYWIRE FORTY CLICKS NORTH OF PARK RIDGE. SOUNDS LIKE YER C.O.M.P.U.T.O.
THEN LET'S GO. I'D LIKE TO TALK TO THE MONSTER THAT DID THIS.

Every morning before daybreak, the blue fox circled the barnyard, hoping to see Chanticleer fall from grace.



But truer than any clockwork, the golden rooster called in the day.

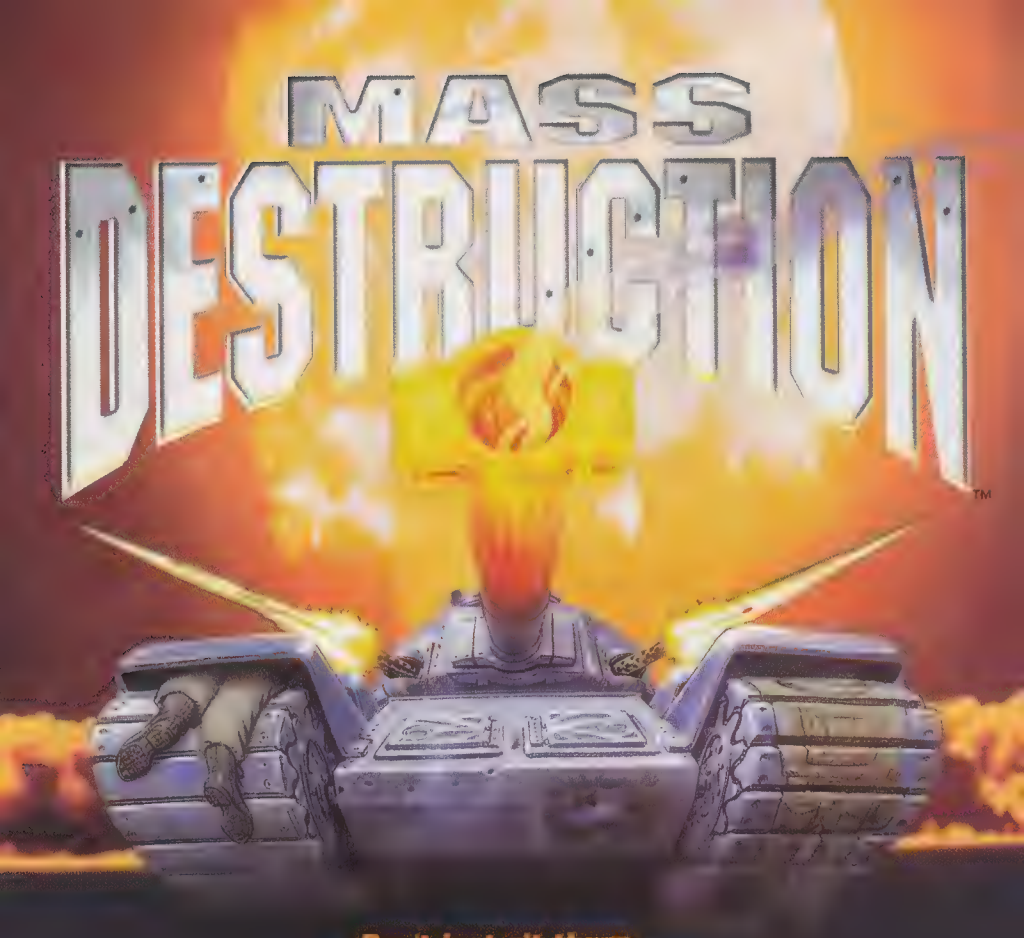
The fox, rather than meet his fate at the end of the farmer's pitchfork...

...fled the barnyard as swiftly as his legs could carry him.

This ritual continued until the fox was consumed with hate for Chanticleer...

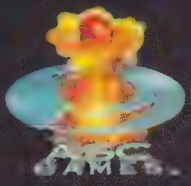
...and devised a plan to rid the farm of the noble bird.

MASS DESTRUCTION™



Don't just sit there...

SHOOT!



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CARRIE? I ALMOST THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T COMING. YOU'RE LUCKY THE MAYOR'S RUNNING LATE--!
LOIS, RIGHT? DIDN'T YOU HEAR ABOUT THE TANK ATTACK? I SWUNG DOWNTOWN TO SHOOT A FEW ROLLS FIRST.
I FIGURED SACKETT WOULD PROBABLY CANCEL THE PRESS CONFERENCE SO'S HE COULD GET DOWN THERE HIMSELF.
SAY, THAT'S PRETTY GOOD. EVER THOUGHT ABOUT GOING INTO JOURNALISM?
NAH. TOO MUCH LIKE WORK.
MAY I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION? MY APOLOGIES FOR MAKING YOU WAIT IN THE COLD, BUT I'M SURE MOST OF YOU HAVE HEARD ABOUT THE DISASTER BY NOW.
I'M SURE YOU WILL ALL UNDERSTAND WHEN I TELL YOU MY PRESENCE IS REQUIRED AND I MUST CANCEL THIS PRESS CONFERENCE.
THOUGH BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THERE IS A SILVER LINING IN TODAY'S DARK CLOUD.
TOLDJA.
WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT, LOIS?
YOU GOT ME, JACK.
THANKFULLY, THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES IN THE ATTACK, BUT THE CITY HAS SUFFERED AN IMMEASURABLE LOSS OF HISTORY.
A LOSS THAT HAS SPARKED A WAVE OF PHILANTHROPY FROM BACKERS WHO ARE PREPARED TO RESTORE METROPOLIS TO A GOLDEN AGE.
MAYOR SACKETT! WHO ARE THESE BACKERS?
THOSE WHO WISH THEIR DEEDS TO INSPIRE, NOT THEIR NAMES.
I DON'T KNOW IF I LIKE HIM, BUT HE DOESN'T LOOK BACK...

DOESN'T ANYBODY CARE?
I MEAN, THE MAYOR-- MY DAD-- WAS ASSASSINATED. SHOT DEAD.
WHY?
FRANK BERKOWITZ NEVER HURT ANYONE. HE WAS A GOOD MAN. AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS?
MY FRIENDS HAVE THEIR OWN TROUBLES, I GUESS. FIRE AT THE SCHOOL, MADDIE'S DAD'S HOTEL BLEW UP. ASHBURY'S DISAPPEARED.
MY OWN SISTER DIDN'T EVEN SHOW UP FOR THE FUNERAL.
SUZIE? HEY, SIS, SORRY I'M LATE. GATEWAY CITY'S A LONG WAY FROM HERE.
JULIANNA!
YOU CAME!
I DID. IS THE FAMILY SITTING SHIVAH IN THE HOUSE?
YEAH. I PROBABLY SHOULDN'T EVEN BE OUTSIDE...
WELL, YOU LOOK LIKE YOU NEED TO TALK, AND I KNOW SOMEWHERE WE CAN DO IT.
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
TO SEE THE LAST THING DAD EVER DID.

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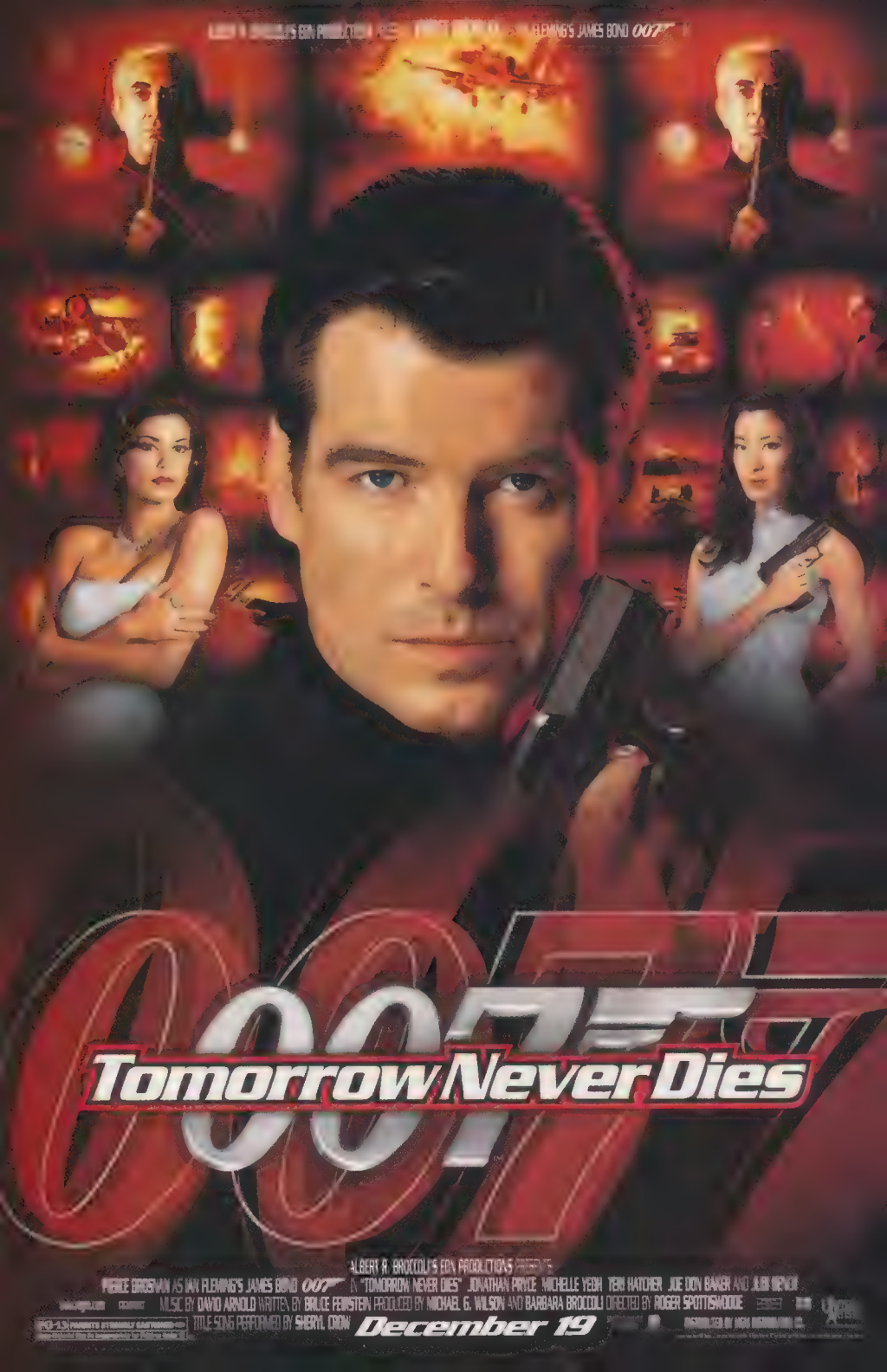
"-- I WANT TO REMEMBER HIS MOST LOFTY AMBITIONS."
FAR OUT!
MISA! I'M WIDE OPEN! HAVE WE LOST IT?
JIMMY! WHAT'S HAPPENING?
RRROOARR

LOST IT? MAYBE IF WE THREW IT A COUPLE OF SNACKS...
...LIKE ASHBURY AND SCORN, FOR INSTANCE...
TU-POCK!
THRUNCH!
MISA, YOU KNOW THE WILD AREA BETTER THAN US! WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT CAVE WAS OCCUPIED?
CUT LOOSE, JIMMY! THIS IS A TRIP!
JIMMY, PLEASE! TURN US AROUND! LET'S GO HOME!
TU-POCK!
YOU GOT IT, ASH! METROPOLIS, HERE WE COME!
KRANCH!
OKAY, SPOILSPORTS, BUT JUST SO IT'S NOT A TOTAL BUMMER, LET'S STOP AT MY PAD THERE'RE A FEW THINGS I WANT...


007
Tomorrow Never Dies
PIERCE BROSNAN AS IAN FLEMING'S JAMES BOND 007
IN "TOMORROW NEVER DIES" JONATHAN PRYCE MICHELLE YEOH TERI HATCHER JOE DON BAKER AND JUDI DENCH
MUSIC BY DAVID ARNOLD WRITTEN BY BRUCE FEIRSTEIN PRODUCED BY MICHAEL G. WILSON AND BARBARA BROCCOLI DIRECTED BY ROGER SPOTTISWOODE
TITLE SONG PERFORMED BY SHERYL CROW
December 19

THAT A'ITO PLANT FARED BETTER THAN DOWNTOWN METROPOLIS. AT LEAST WE PREVENTED TOTAL DESTRUCTION
BUT IT WAS A DIVERSION. C.O.M.P.U.T.O. WILL STRIKE AGAIN, AND HARDER.
ANTICIPATING THE ACTIONS OF THE SUPRAGENIUS REQUIRES MORE THAN TRIANGULATION DATA, SUPERMAN.
TRY CLEAR THINKING AND COMMON SENSE, BRAINIAC. C.O.M.P.U.T.O. WANTS TO HURT A LOT OF PEOPLE AT ONCE...
SO FAR, IT'S ATTACKED NEAR WHERE WE'VE BEEN. COULD THERE BE A LIMIT ON ITS RANGE?
RIGHT, TRIAD! C.O.M.P.U.T.O.'S FIXED AT HAPPY HARBOR'S POWER PLANT! BRAINY, WHAT'S THE ATTACK RADIUS?
IT'S A PLAUSIBLE THEORY--
--APART FROM ONE ANOMALOUS READING.
TWO HUNDRED SIXTY THREE KILOMETERS SEEMS TO BE--
WWRRAOOOWW
WHAT--?
THAT'S IT! THE METROPOLIS AEROARTS EXHIBITION! THAT'S WHERE C.O.M.P.U.T.O. WILL STRIKE!
THE WHAT?
IT'S AN AIRCRAFT DEMONSTRATION. THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WILL BE WATCHING.
BUT SUPERMAN, C.O.M.P.U.T.O. CAN ONLY CONTROL ELECTRONICS! THERE CAN'T BE ANYTHING IT COULD USE ON THAT ANTIQUE, CAN THERE?

KOKO!
YOU WILL NOT STOP ME! I KNOW EVERYTHING YOU KNOW! YOU WILL DIE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE ON EARTH!
ARE YOU SURE THAT'S A... COMPUTER?
A DANGEROUS ONE. WILL THERE BE COMPUTERIZED AIRCRAFT AT THIS SHOW?
YES...
"... BUT IF WE DON'T HURRY, THERE MIGHT NOT BE FOR LONG!"
READY FOR YOUR FLYBY, BEN. GIVE THE CROWD A THRILL --BUT KEEP A FLOOR OF 700 FEET.
ROGER THAT, TOWER. STRAIGHT AN' NARROW...
STRAIGHT TO YOUR DEATH, YOU MEAN!
WHAT THE--? STICK'S GONE SNAFU! EVERYTHING'S HAYWIRE!
KRRK!
TRAAOOOAAAAA
FALCON ONE TO TOWER-- MAYDAY! MAYDAY!
LOST ALL CONTROL!
THAT, uh, THAT F-15's SOLID AS A ROCK, FOLKS! ALL PART OF TH' SHOW!
SEE, SUZIE? THAT'S WHAT DAD WAS ALL ABOUT.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, JULES?

SOME PEOPLE THINK I LEFT METROPOLIS BECAUSE OF THAT BOOSTER GOLD INCIDENT. *
TRUTH IS, DAD HAD FORGOTTEN WHY HE BECAME MAYOR IN THE FIRST PLACE -- AND I HATED IT!
HE DID?
* ACTION #594 -- JOEY D.C.!
YOU WERE YOUNG, BUT HE STARTED THIS AIR SHOW BECAUSE HE WANTED TO MAKE THE CITY A COMMUNITY EVERY-ONE COULD SHARE AND ENJOY AND BE INVOLVED IN.
BUT MORE AND MORE, HIS TIME WAS EATEN UP BY SPECIAL INTERESTS AND POLITICAL POSTUR-ING. I COULDN'T STAND IT.
BY COMING HERE, I SORT OF FEEL WE'RE PAYING TRIBUTE TO HIM ... TO HIS FINEST HOUR.
YEAH, HE ALWAYS LOVED FLIGHT. I WAS ONLY FIVE, BUT I RE-MEMBER WHEN SUPER-MAN FIRST CAME TO TOWN AND DAD SAID--
???
LOOK! UP IN THE SKY!
VVRROOARR
;unhh!; MAGNETIC GRIP'S ...SLOWING, BUT ;uhn!; PLANE'S STILL IN A DIVE!
A MOMENT MORE, SUPERMAN, AND I'LL HAVE PRE-PARED A TELEPORTA-TION DISC.
HURRY, GATES! THE PILOT'S BLACKED OUT FROM THE PRESSURE!

I MUST ADMIT, HOWEVER...
...THE IDEA OF PRESERVING A MACHINE WHOSE SOLE PURPOSE IS DESTRUCTION REPULSES ME.
SHT AKK!
NOT TO MENTION THE EXPLOITATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR SIMPLE AMUSEMENT.
WE CAN DISCUSS THE COMPLEXITIES OF DEFENSE AND ECOLOGY LATER, GATES!
KKTSHAOW
FOR NOW, LET'S TRY TO SAVE SOME LIVES!
RIGHT BEHIND YOU, SUPERMAN!
STAY BACK, SPARK! I'VE OVERLOADED THE PLANE'S ELECTRONICS --SHOULD MAKE C.O.M.P.U.T.O. RELINQUISH CONTROL.
NOW TO LAND IT SAFELY! I COULD DO THAT WITH MY OLD POWERS EASY, BUT--
BUT I CAN HELP WITH MY NEW POWERS...
TZZAK
...BY MAKING IT ONLY A FRACTION OF ITS ORIGINAL WEIGHT... STEADYING ITS DESCENT...
AND I'LL PUT UP AN ENERGY NET TO CATCH IT...

THE GALAXY IS FAR, FAR AWAY.
THE FIGHTING IS UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL.

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Presenting Masters of Teräs Käsi, an all-out 3D fighter featuring a variety of Star Wars characters battling in action packed arenas. Engage in weapon or hand-to-hand combat. Heck, even the Emperor never saw this coming.

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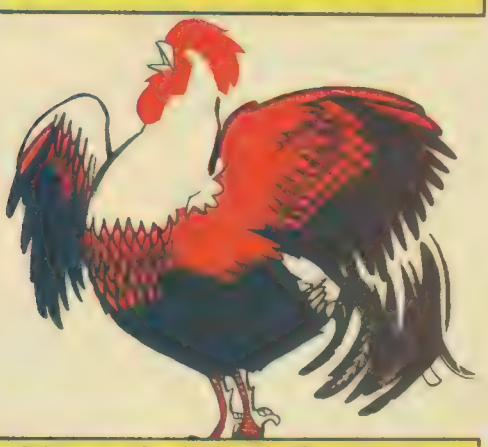
I'LL LEND A HAND ;nng; TOO, SUPERMAN!
FERRO?
FERRO, CAN YOU READ ME?
I'M... I'M A BIT BUSY, MS. ERIN...
SKREEEEEEE
JUST TELL THE LEGION AND SUPERMAN THAT THE TOWER'S IMMEDIATELY GROUNDING AND EVACUATING ALL MODERN AIRCRAFT.
SURE THING, MS. ERIN.
VERY COMMENDABLE, SUPERMAN. THE CRISIS ENDED THIRTY-SEVEN SECONDS SOONER THAN I EXPECTED...
...MOSTLY DUE TO YOUR CONTRIBUTION-- WHICH I DIDN'T HAVE THE INFORMATION TO FULLY QUANTIFY, OF COURSE.
OF COURSE, BRAINIAC.
THE EXTRA TIME DID GIVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO FINISH CALCULATING DATA FROM OUR EARLIER BATTLE.
KOKO?
THE TANKS?
YES. IT MAY INTEREST YOU TO KNOW THAT TRIANGULATION REVEALED THAT THE REMOTE SIGNAL FOR THEIR ATTACK DIDN'T COME FROM C.O.M.P.U.T.O....
...BUT FROM WITHIN LEXCORP TOWER.

One day, the blue fox startled Chanticleer by the hen house. The rooster was about to alert the farmer when the fox said...

"Dear sir, I fear we misunderstand each other. I merely wish to hear if your voice is equal to that of your father, whom I knew quite well."



"His secret," said the fox, "was to close both eyes and stretch his neck out. Pray, let us hear if you sing nearly so well." So Chanticleer did...

...and found himself snatched by the throat and carried off to the fox's house in the wood! The farmer heard the noise and ran after...

...and despite his fear, Chanticleer bade the fox to turn back toward the farmer and declare his victory!

The blue fox thought this an excellent idea, but naturally, as soon as he opened his mouth the rooster flew out and away!

BZZP
SORRY TO INTERRUPT, MR. LUTHOR--BUT SUPERMAN AND SOME ACQUAINTANCES WANT TO SEE YOU. THEY SAY IT'S IMPORTANT.
ACQUAINTANCES?
SUPER-HEROES, SIR.
:sigh: ALL RIGHT. SHOW THEM UP.
I'M AFRAID WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE A SHORT BREAK FROM THE READING, LENA, MY DEAR.
DON'T WORRY--SUPERMAN'S VISIT WILL BE BUT A MOMENTARY DISTRACTION...
...AS ALWAYS.
WELL--THIS IS A SURPRISE.
HAD I KNOWN YOU WERE WITH THESE... DELINQUENTS, SUPERMAN, I WOULDN'T HAVE PERMITTED YOU IN.
THIS ISN'T A SOCIAL CALL, LUTHOR.
WE'RE HERE ABOUT THE LITTLE TANK ATTACK YOU ORCHESTRATED THIS MORNING.
YOU'RE ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT MEN IN THE CITY, LUTHOR, BUT YOU ALWAYS WANT MORE! AND IF YOU CAN'T HAVE IT--YOU DESTROY IT!
NOT THIS TIME, LUTHOR! THIS TIME YOU PAY!

IF YOU MEAN REPARATIONS TO THOSE ADVERSELY IMPACTED BY THE ATTACK-- MY FOUNDATION DOES THAT AS A MATTER OF COURSE.
IF YOU MEAN TO SLANDER AND BULLY ME--YOU'LL FIND I'M CONSIDERABLY LESS CHARITABLE.
I GROW TIRED OF THIS DANCE, SUPERMAN. AS ALWAYS, YOU ACCUSE, BUT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE...
THAT WOULD BE TRUE-- USING WHAT YOU CALL TECHNOLOGY. BUT WHAT I HAVE IS... YEARS AHEAD OF THAT. ALLOW ME TO--
DELETE ...SILY AS I ...IS DATA!
FIZZOT!
YOU WERE SAYING?
IT DOESN'T END HERE, LUTHOR!
NO-- IT SEEMS NEVER-ENDING.
REALLY, SUPERMAN-- HOW OFTEN MUST WE PLAY THIS CHARADE? WHEN WILL YOU BE SATISFIED?
...
MS. ERIN-- BEFORE YOU AND THE LEGION ARRIVED HERE, HAD YOU EVER HEARD OF THIS MAN? HIS FAMILY? HIS LEGACY? HIS CONQUESTS?
NEVER
I FAIL TO SEE THE POINT TO THIS. I'VE NEVER HAD ANY REASON OR NEED TO MAKE MY PRESENCE KNOWN BEYOND THIS PLANET...
WHAT IF THEY'RE NOT FROM ANOTHER PLANET, LUTHOR?
--THOUSAND YEARS IS A LONG TIME TO WAIT, BUT IF IT MEANS A METROPOLIS WITHOUT A LUTHOR--THERE'S SOME SMALL SATISFACTION IN THAT.
THEN PERHAPS YOU CAN RETURN THE FAVOR BY ALERTING THE JLA ABOUT C.O.M.P.U.T.O....?
21

Chanticleer lighted atop a nearby tree. The fox implored him to return, saying it had all been in play. But the rooster had learned better.

The fox vowed to capture Chanticleer again, but the farmer drove him away and he has not returned since. The end.

WELL, MY DEAR -- SOMETIMES THE FOX *DOES* RETURN, BUT FEAR NOT -- I WILL *PROTECT* YOU.
JUST PROMISE ME THAT WHEN YOU GROW UP AND MARRY, YOU WON'T GIVE UP THE LUTHOR *NAME*. IT'S A NAME THAT SHOULD BE REVERED FOR *CENTURIES*.
aaaaa!

"... I DO FOR *YOU*."

The End

RE:ACTION

DC COMICS
1700 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY
10019

ACTION COMICS #736

Dear Re:Action:

ACTION COMICS #736 is a great book—not because it was filled with action or super-strong villains, but because it dealt with a disaster that can really occur, such as a coal mine collapsing. Yes, it's nice to see Superman fight super-powered villains, but how about seeing him save people from a burning building or a train wreck, or a cat in a tree?

What makes Superman *super* is not his battles with his archenemies, but his care for Metropolis and its people. Don't get me wrong—I think the writers there at DC are doing great on Supes, but give him a rest every once in a while and let him tackle a regular emergency or villain that has nothing to do with super-powers. Keep up the good work.

KYLE SCHWINGENDORF
LANSING, IL

We hear ya, Kyle, and we agree—some of Superman's greatest feats ***have*** *come at quieter moments, and we promise to keep that healthy balance going, even in a book called ACTION. Thanks for reminding us, and in appreciation, accept this month's Baldy with our gratitude!*

Dear Actioneers:

David Michelinie, I'm sad that you're leaving. What a way to go, though—ACTION #736 was full of the ramifications of Kal's evolution and especially focused on how valuable Clark Kent is to his wholeness. And the right way to show the dilemma was by putting Clark in a situation that Superman couldn't get out of. Nice work, but oh my, my mind got to thinking because of this...

I challenge the idea of Clark's existence. As you all know by now, I believe that magic has a role in this shebang. Otherwise, what other than willpower could create a human form to maintain a mind within? Kal's love for his adoptive human race may be so strong that his mysterious energies bind themselves fully to this plane in Clark's likeness. A likeness that is not humanoid, but *human*.

Again, I maintain this body is not Clark Kent, with as much proof in that when he changes back in a couple of years, this body will not maintain the Kryptonian structures of life. I say that Clark Kent is inevitably Kryptonian in body, and partially in mind. Kal has a newborn body. Happy birthday, man.

In the meantime, Clark will have to stay pumped up, unless his time in the energy zone keeps him healthy. Also, what would happen if Superman was in energy form for a really long time on our plane of reality? (And what *does* he draw his energy from?)

Wait, this is all blatherwitchy. I read page 21 once again, and I realize that no matter what fanciful hooey there is, he's still Superman.

All of the soul-searching and self-realizations that the Superman Family are having right now are quite intriguing. SUPERBOY has had many excellent blocks of stories—first with Knockout, then Match. SUPERGIRL is absolutely trippy, and, um, I don't read STEEL, but I know he's found himself, too.

Well, bye-bye, David. You were good at making me think too much.

T.V. RADIATION
(MICKSPIN@ECST.CSUCHICO.EDU)
CHICO, CA

Geez, a lot of thinkers for a book with the title "ACTION COMICS"... Ah, well, T.V., you don't have to miss Mr. Michelinie too much to get that brain fluid of yours goin', as he's the writer of the upcoming SUPERMAN ADVENTURES special called SUPERMAN/LOBO: MISERY IN SPACE. Of course, any special with Lobo in it is hardly highbrow literature, so perhaps you won't have to think too much with that story, either!

And read STEEL, willya?! It's a great book, especially cuz it's brought to ya monthly by Priest, Denys Cowan and Tom Palmer! If you think John Irons has his whole life sorted out, the you've got another think comin' once you see this book. Check it out, OK?

To Those Who Make Superman Possible:

I really enjoy the current stories—the Revenge Squad, the return of Intergang (and Mr. Donovan), the upcoming Luthor trial and especially the new powers. To those who hate Superman's new powers: *tough*. Next year, Superman turns 60, and the old suit will be back. Get over it!

Anyway, I really liked ACTION #736; the only things I found wrong in it were the same members coming back to the Revenge Squad and the size of the lettercolumn.

It's obvious that Clark is getting used to his powers finally. Now it won't be too dangerous to hang around Supes (like it was ever safe!). Clark, however, is starting to act more like Batman every time he has to be Clark (like on pages 11 through 19).

I think I know who's behind the Revenge Squad. I have it down to three suspects: Lex Luthor, Collin Thornton and Contessa del

Portenza. The reasons for Lex are obvious—he gets rid of Superman, and Metropolis becomes his. Without Superman, he could do almost anything. (Yeah, the leader of the Squad had hair. Lex's toupee?)

As for Collin Thornton, he's very persuasive. He could do "business-wise" if Superman were out of the picture, and he's powerfully inclined (he is Satanus). My money's on him.

Of course, Contessa del Portenza might be it. Come to think of it, in ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #543, page 15, Lex says, "...Ran a background check on you. Couldn't find out how old you are." Then the Contessa answers, "My age...my past...is none of your concern. This child will be more fit than you could ever hope to be." That makes me think she's an alien shapeshifter or a meta. If she is, she could be behind the Squad. The "mystery guy" in ACTION #735 did tell Rock that his/her resources were rather impressive. Maybe LexCorp?

Just a thought. If not them, maybe it's Boss Moxie. Don't know why. It'd just be an interesting choice.

ADAM LANDIS
LILBURN, GA

P.S. Would you consider giving me a Baldy (what's that?) for my extensive research?
P.P.S. Any chance of any other DC/Marvel crossovers like SPIDER-MAN/BATMAN or GREEN LANTERN/SILVER SURFER? Maybe SUPERBOY/X-MAN or SUPERBOY/SPIDER-MAN?

Good guesses as to the identity of the mystery guy, Adam. Unfortunately, Morgan Edge would list your three choices as wrong, wrong and wrong, and your last-ditch guess as—you guessed it—also wrong. Thanks for playin'!

We're in the process of Amalgamating again down the road, so DC/Marvel crossovers remain a constant, not to worry. As for a Baldy, sorry—asking means not receiving in most cases. We pick the letter that intrigues us most that month, and one condition we stick to is that the letter writer doesn't ask for a Baldy. Mebbe next time.

Hmmm... Speaking of Baldys, looks like a brouhaha is brewin'...

Dear Super-Team:

I am writing in response to a letter published in ACTION #736 by a Mr. Mark A. Allen of Brooklyn, NY, who went on a blatant Baldy-bashing spree, calling you Superfolk "patsies," and condemning everyone who writes to comics telling you how we like the art or the character, for giving "the same, pathetic, self-serving praise" every week and denouncing us as only trying to win the coveted Baldy award. He also accused those letter-writers of attempting to spin a web of deception by asking *gasp* "What is a Baldy?", specifically pointing out the issue in which I was awarded my Baldy, ACTION #731, as an example of this "paper-thin rule" and referring to me as a "wise guy." He also blasted the Super-Editors as guilty of "irresponsible Baldy-giving." Well, boo-hoo! Sounds to me like Mr. Allen has sour grapes over not being awarded the Baldy himself!

I believe that DC publishes an equal amount of praise/criticism letters per month, but Mr. Allen would have DC publish letters that were full of "I hated this comic," or "The artwork stinks!" I don't know about all other readers, but I don't like to read a letters page full of nothing but letters from readers who simply want to bash a comic that I enjoy. I'm proud to have been honored with a Baldy award, and I fully enjoy all of the Superman books each month. So I have this bit of advice to Mr. Mark A. Allen that holds true for any entertainment that he does not enjoy: simply avoid it. If it troubles you so much to read the letters page each month, then don't read it. I highly doubt that your enjoyment of the comic book will suffer greatly.

EVAN CATRON
CASHION, OK

Awright, awright, break it up, break it up. The kids from ***South Park*** *are watchin' you guys fight, and you're settin' a bad example. Can't we all just get along?*

—Mike McAvennie
Yeah, I want some Cheesey Poofs!

Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's the Legion of Super-Heroes and Superman! It's this month's cover by Stuart Immonen, Jose Marzan, Jr. and Patrick Martin! It's so cool!

COMING ATTRACTIONS:

NEXT WEEK: Monsters abound in MAN OF STEEL #76, as the beastly Simyan and Mokkari's big brutes battle Big Blue! Provided they get past that tongue-twister, Jimmy, Scorn and Ashbury have to survive the black-and-white dimension the monsters came from! Louise Simonson, Jon Bogdanove and Dennis Janke give us a monstrous tale in seven days!

IN TWO WEEKS: SUPERMAN RED/SUPERMAN BLUE! Just what the heck does this mean? Sorry, you're gonna have to wait fourteen days as it'll take just about the entire Super-Team to explain it in this extra-sized issue sporting a really cool 3-D cover! The effect is better than any used in *House of Wax!*

IN THREE WEEKS: It's SUPERMAN #132, and it's the aftermath of SUPERMAN RED/SUPERMAN BLUE! It's in twenty-one days, it's by Dan Jurgens, Ron Frenz and Joe Rubinstein, and that's all we have to say about that.

IN FOUR WEEKS: It's the aftermath of the aftermath of SUPERMAN RED/SUPERMAN BLUE in ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #555! Unfortunately, you'll either hold your breath till you turn blue or just see red when we tell you that you've gotta wait twenty-eight days for Karl Kesel, Tom Grummett and Denis Rodier to explain all!

IN FIVE WEEKS: It's MAN OF TOMORROW #10, and it's the aftermath of SUPERMAN RED/SUPERMAN BLUE cubed. It's also a double date with danger, as Obsession and Maxima enter the picture once again! Lady troubles ensue in thirty-five days with Roger Stern, Paul Ryan and Brett Breeding!

NEXT ISSUE: ACTION COMICS #742 is—yep, you guessed it—the aftermath of the aftermath of the aftermath of the aftermath (*huff*, *pant*) of SUPERMAN RED/SUPERMAN BLUE! Adding up all this aftermathing in forty-two days is Stuart "E=MC^2" Immonen and José "Pie Guy" Marzan, Jr.

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two for me. none for you.™

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